



Dear Colleague:

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities invites you to join a “listserve” we have formed for the purpose of distributing information and sharing ideas on the interrelationship of affordable housing policy and welfare reform. (If you would prefer to receive copies of selected documents by mail, we invite you to join our conventional mailing list, described below.)

The Center is a nonpartisan research organization and policy institute that conducts research and analysis on a range of government policies and programs, with an emphasis on those affecting low- and moderate-income families and individuals. One area of interest to the Center is the intersection of low-income housing and welfare policy. The Center’s research in this area seeks to clarify the implications of welfare reform for housing policy and the potential contribution of housing programs to welfare reform.

**LISTSERVE:** To facilitate the exchange of information on the nexus of housing and welfare policy among housing and welfare professionals, researchers and policy analysts, policymakers, and foundation representatives, the Center has formed this listserve. Subscribers to the listserve will receive periodic updates from the Center on issues related to the intersection of affordable housing policy and welfare reform and will be able to send information or pose questions to the Center or to the subscriber list. Among the topics that we expect will be discussed on the listserve are: initiatives that help subsidized tenants find and retain work, the implications of the new housing bill for welfare reform efforts, and state and local programs that provide housing allowances to families attempting to move from welfare to work.

We encourage those with e-mail access to sign up for the listserve. If you do not have e-mail access, but do have occasional access to the Internet, you may find selected publications on housing and welfare reform (and other topics of concern to low- and moderate-income families) on the Center’s web site: <http://www.cbpp.org>.

**MAILING LIST.** For those who would like paper copies of selected Center publications on the intersection of housing and welfare reform, we are setting up a conventional mailing list. Subscribers to the housing/welfare reform mailing list will receive at least six mailings a year. To partially cover the copying and mailing costs, the conventional mailing list will carry a \$25 fee. (Subscribers to the listserve need not sign up for the conventional mailing list. All documents sent to the mailing list will be made available without charge to listserve participants in electronic format.)

Some recent Center papers on issues related to the nexus of affordable housing policy and welfare policy are available on the Internet at: <http://www.cbpp.org/pubs/housing.htm>. A brief description of several recent papers may be found at the end of this document.

The housing/welfare reform mailing list should be distinguished from the Center’s general subscription service, which costs \$55 and covers such areas as federal budget issues, poverty and income trends, labor issues, hunger and welfare issues, and state policy issues. The housing/welfare reform mailing list provides access to papers that are in most cases too specialized and technical to be sent to the general subscription list. (For more information on the general subscription service, or to sign up, contact the Center at 202-408-1080 or visit: <http://www.cbpp.org/pubs/subsc.htm>.)

TO SUBSCRIBE TO LISTSERVE.

To join the listserve, take the following two steps:

1. Send an e-mail to *majordomo@lists.cbpp.org* containing this exact message: subscribe housingwelfare
2. So that we know who has joined the listserve, we would appreciate it if you sent a second e-mail to *housing@cbpp.org* indicating that you have joined the listserve and providing the following information:

a. name	b. organization	c. e-mail address
d. phone number	e. fax number	f. address

MAILING LIST. To join the conventional mailing list on the intersection of affordable housing policy and welfare reform, send a letter providing items a-f above, together with a check for \$25 payable to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, to the following address: Housing/Welfare Reform Mailing List, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 820 First Street, NE, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20002.

Please send any questions by e-mail to *housing@cbpp.org* or by mail to the above address.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sard  
Director of Housing Policy

Jeff Lubell  
Housing Policy Analyst

## PAPERS, ANALYSES, AND OUTLINES BY CENTER STAFF ON THE NEXUS OF HOUSING AND WELFARE POLICY

**HOUSING AND WELFARE REFORM: SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION.** Revised November 1998. (<http://www.cbpp.org/hous212.htm>). This paper provides an overview of the issues at the intersection of welfare reform and low-income housing policy and the extent to which this intersection presents both opportunities and risks for welfare recipients, housing and welfare advocates, and administrators of welfare and housing programs. The paper describes a number of areas where better understanding and improved coordination between welfare and housing programs could prove particularly useful. The paper is useful for people seeking to gain familiarity with low-income housing programs or basic provisions of new federal and state welfare laws.

**HOW THE STATUTORY CHANGES MADE BY THE QUALITY HOUSING AND WORK RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1998 MAY AFFECT WELFARE REFORM EFFORTS.** December 1998. (<http://www.cbpp.org/12-17-98hous.htm>) This paper discusses the potential impact of the new housing bill on welfare reform efforts. As discussed in the paper, most policy decisions by public housing agencies (PHAs) on matters relevant to welfare reform must now be recorded in a newly created document: the PHA Plan. We anticipate that the PHA Plan process, and the required public and tenant input into that process, will play an important role in determining many local housing policy decisions.

**WELFARE-TO-WORK HOUSING VOUCHERS: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO WELFARE REFORM.** Revised February 1999. (<http://www.cbpp.org/12-2-98hous.htm>) This paper provides an overview of the new federal Welfare-to-Work Voucher program that will provide 50,000 housing vouchers to families attempting to move from welfare to work. Applications for the initial round of welfare-to-work vouchers were due April 28, 1999.

**OUTLINE OF HOW FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAMS CAN HELP PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO CURRENT AND FORMER WELFARE RECIPIENTS.** Revised January 2000. (<http://www.cbpp.org/1-6-00hous.pdf>) Arranged in outline form, this paper provides details on ways to use HUD funds and HUD program rules to provide employment and training opportunities and support services to current and former welfare recipients.

**WELFARE REFORM AND SECTION 8.** Published in Abt Associates' Fall 1998 Housing Strategies newsletter (<http://www.abtassoc.com/newsletters/housing-strategies/housing-strategies-download.html>), this article discusses ways to maximize the potential of the Section 8 voucher program to help families move from welfare to work. Also available by e-mail; contact us at [housing@cbpp.org](mailto:housing@cbpp.org).

**FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY (FSS) PROGRAM.** Revised September 1999. (<http://www.cbpp.org/5-5-99hous.htm>). This is a six-page summary of the FSS program and its advantages (and possible drawbacks) for public housing and Section 8 residents, PHAs and welfare agencies. It is arranged in Q & A format. Groups that wish to adapt and/or distribute the document on their own letterhead should send us an e-mail at [housing@cbpp.org](mailto:housing@cbpp.org).

**IN SEARCH OF SHELTER: THE GROWING SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING.** June 1998. (<http://www.cbpp.org/615hous.htm>) This report documents the shortage of affordable housing for poor families, including the working poor and families attempting to move from welfare to work. In addition to providing national data on housing costs and conditions for families with incomes below the poverty line as of 1995 (the most recent such data available), the report provides data on housing costs in 45 metropolitan areas.